EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicant, an amendment may be filed as

provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Mr. Kirk D. Williams on 3/4/2009.

3.   Please replace all of the claims with the following claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for gang scheduling, the method comprising:

a first member of a gang recognizing an event, the gang including the first member and a plurality of other members; and in response to said recognition of the event, the first member sending a multicast dispatch message to the plurality of other members, the multicast dispatch message including an indication of a gang priority level; and

the plurality of other members receiving the multicast dispatch message; and in response: each particular member of the plurality of other members raising a priority level of a process associated with said each particular member to that corresponding to the gang priority level in order to cause an approximate or actual simultaneous response to the ~~gang dispatch~~ multicast dispatch message on each of the plurality of other gang members, and then performing an operation associated with the multicast dispatch message in said process at the gang priority level;

wherein the priority level of the first member is raised to the gang priority level before said sending the multicast dispatch message.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said performing the operation includes generating one or more results; and wherein said method comprises each particular member of the plurality of other members communicating its respective said one or more results to the first member.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein said operation includes collecting one or more statistics values and said one or more results includes said one or more statistics values.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the multicast dispatch message includes a set of routing updates, and said operation includes updating a data structure with the set of routing updates.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the multicast dispatch message includes a fault indication, and said operation includes updating configuration or routing information in response to the fault indication.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the event includes the detection of a fault, and the operation is a corrective measure associated with the fault.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): An apparatus having one or more processing elements and memory configured for gang scheduling, the apparatus comprising:

means for maintaining gang membership of a scheduling gang, said gang membership including a plurality of other gang members; and

means for dispatching and communicating a particular gang dispatch message messages to the plurality of other gang members, said particular gang dispatch message messages including a scheduling priority level; wherein said means for dispatching is configured to raise its priority level to at least the scheduling priority level before sending the particular gang dispatch message to the plurality of other gang members; and

wherein each of the plurality of other gang members includes: means for receiving a particular said particular gang dispatch message; and means for: in response to said receipt of said particular gang dispatch message: modifying a priority level of a process to the scheduling priority level included in said received particular gang dispatch message in order to cause an approximate or actual simultaneous response to the gang said particular gang dispatch message on each of the plurality of other gang members, and then performing an operation corresponding to said particular gang dispatch message in the process at the scheduling priority level included in said particular gang dispatch message.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said means for dispatching and communicating said particular gang dispatch message messages includes means for performing reliable group communication.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said means for reliable group communication includes means for acknowledging less than all of a series of gang dispatch messages.

Claim 11 (original): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said means for reliable group communication includes means for performing immediate and delayed acknowledgement of received said particular gang dispatch message messages.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An apparatus including one or more processing elements and memory, wherein said memory stores one or more instructions that, when executed by said one or more processors, implements processes comprising:
        a first member of a gang; and
        a plurality of other members of the gang;
        wherein the first member is configured to recognize an event, and in response, send a multicast dispatch message to the plurality of other members, the multicast dispatch message including an indication of a gang priority level; and
        wherein the plurality of other members are each configured to receive the multicast dispatch message, and in response to said receipt of the multicast dispatch message: to change a processing priority level of a process to that corresponding to the gang priority level including in the multicast dispatch message in order to cause an approximate or actual simultaneous response to the gang dispatch message on each of the plurality of other gang members, and then to perform an operation associated with the multicast dispatch message in the process at the gang priority level; and
        wherein the first member is configured to raise its priority level to at least the gang priority level in response to said recognizing the event and before said sending the multicast dispatch message.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said performing the operation includes generating one or more results; and wherein said each of the plurality of other members is configured to communicate said one or more results to the first member.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said operation includes collecting one or more statistics values and said one or more results includes said one or more statistics values.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein each of the plurality of other members of the gang are included on different line cards of a packet switching system.

Claim 17 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the multicast dispatch message includes a set of routing updates, and said operation includes updating a data structure with the set of routing updates.

Claim 18 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the multicast dispatch message includes a fault indication, and said operation includes updating configuration or routing information in response to the fault indication.

Claim 19 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the event includes the detection of a fault, and the operation is a corrective measure associated with the fault.

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MengYao Zhe whose telephone number is 571-272-6946. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Friday, 10:00 - 8:00 EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached at 571-272-3756. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/Meng-Ai An/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2195